

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N.A
SUBJECT: EDITORIAL IN THE IRISH TIMES JULY 19, 1978

REF: DUBLIN 02222

REFERENCED CABLE EXPLAINS THE INCIDENT WHICH PROMPTED
THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL ON THE MOSCOW TRIALS:

OTHER MEN'S RULES

LOCAL COUNCILS WHICH DENOUNCE WORLD IMPERIAL POWERS
ARE OFTEN THE STUFF OF COMEDY - ON THE LINES OF
THE IMMORTAL SKIBBEREEN EAGLE KEEPING ITS EYE ON THE
CZAR OF RUSSIA.

BUT POLITICS IS NOT ALL THE RECORD OF SUMMITS AND
NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS; POWER, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT,
COMES ULTIMATELY FROM THE PEOPLE, THE GRASS ROOTS,
THE SUM OF LOCAL PRIDE AND PREJUDICE. AND WHY
SHOULD NOT ANY LOCAL BODY ANYWHERE HAVE ITS SAY ON
SO FUNDAMENTAL A MATTER AS THAT WHICH WAS BROUGHT
OUT IN THE MOSCOW TRIALS?

DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL'S MEMBERS ARE SOPHISTICATED
ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT THEIR PRONOUNCEMENTS, AND THEIR
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TURNING DOWN OF THE INVITATION TO THE MAYOR OF
MOSCOW, WILL NOT REGISTER TOO DEEPLY IN RUSSIA;
BUT, INASMUCH AS IT IS IN THEIR POWER TO MAKE THEIR
POINT, THEY HAVE DONE SO.

IT WILLBE SAID THAT IF EVERY UNTOWARD INTERNATIONAL
EVENT WERE TO BE THE OCCASION OF DIPLOMATIC OR POLITICAL

RIPOSTE, THE WORLD COULD NOT GO ABOUT ITS BUSINESS. THERE ARE, TO BE SURE, INCONSISTENCIES. SOUTH AFRICA RAISES PARTICULAR WELTS ON CERTAIN LIBERAL CONSCIENCES; ATROCITIES OR IRREGULARITIES BY A DIFFERENT SOCIAL SOCIETY ARE PASSED OVER BY THE SAME PEOPLE. ONE ASPECT OF THIS IS THAT NOT EVERYONE CAN ALWAYS BE AT BURNING POINT ABOUT EVERY INJUSTICE IN THE WORLD; ONCE COMMITTED TO ONE CAUSE, THE AVERAGE MAN OR WOMAN CANNOT MUSTER THE EFFORT TO BE EQUALLY VEHEMENT ON ANOTHER; THERE IS ALSO, OF COURSE, DELIBERATE SELECTIVITY AND HYPOCRISY.

IN THE CASE OF THE MOSCOW TRIALS, WISE HISTORIANS AND STUDENTS OF HUMANITY REMIND US THAT RUSSIA, UNDER CZAR OR SOCIALIST, IS VIOLENT, UNDEMOCRATIC BY OUR STANDARDS AND THAT IT WORKS BY RULES WHICH MAY HAVE A RATIONALE OF THEIR OWN, BUT ARE NOT TO BE ANALYSED AS BEING OF THE SAME CLASS AS OUR OWN GUIDELINES.

IT IS A POINT THAT SCARCELY NEEDS MAKING TO ANYONE WHO HAS SEEN THE DEVASTATING STALINIST APPROACH, SUCCEEDED BY THE MERELY DESPOTIC ATTITUDES OF TODAY. THE PEOPLE OF THE SOVIET WORLD DO HAVE DIFFERENT STANDARDS. ANDREW YOUNG MADE THE POINT FOR ALL THE WORLD. HE WAS REBUKED MILDLY
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ENOUGH FOR IT. HE WAS NOT SACKED OR IMPRISONED OR EXILED OR EXECUTED FOR IT. WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO GROMYKO IF HE SAID THE SAME?

YET YOUNG'S POINT IS SURELY MISSED IF THE WESTERN WORLD IS TO BEHAVE AS ARBITRARILY AND AS XENOPHOBICALLY AS RUSSIANS DO. DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL HAD THE RIGHT TO VOTE AS IT DID; BETTER WOULD HAVE BEEN TO MAKE THEIR STAND KNOWN AND LET THE INVITATION STAND, SO THAT AT LEAST SOMETHING OF WESTERN WAYS MIGHT PENETRATE INTO THE CHAMBERS OF THEIR OPPOSITE NUMBERS. KRENE

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